Coal: Plans for the Future

185 433 316 Under the Five-Year Plan, the coal industry of the Ukraine is to be speedily rehabilitated and further developed, so that by 1950 its output will be 86,100,000 tons, including about 6 million tons of brown coal (lignite).[1] When it is remembered that this target is only 2.3 million tons over 1940 production, the enormous task of rehabilitation confronting the industry is made clear. The difficulties are even more accentuated if one compares the increase of coal production in three pre-war years, from 1937 to 1940, when output leaped from 70 million tons to 83.8 millions.

Plans for increasing the future coal output of the Ukraine include not only the restoration of old mines but also intensive prospecting and the sinking of many new shafts.

"Between 1946-50, coal mines with an aggregate capacity of 77,500,000 tons are to be put into operation in the Stalino and Voroshilovgrad regions of the Ukrainian S.S.R.[2]; and coal fields in other areas are to be further developed. In particular there are to be put into operation in the Donets Basin and in the western regions of the Ukraine, small coal mines and drifts with a total capacity of 4,600,000 tons of coal, and peat briquette plants with a capacity of 50,000 tons.

The lignite mining industry is to be developed and by 1950 is expected to supply annually some 6 million tons of coal. Five lignite mines operating in the Ukraine in 1946 increased their output in October by three times as compared with April.

135 654 Large coal supplies are expected from the regions west of the Dnepor, where 11 promising coal deposits are located. Prospecting is in progress there, as well as in the Zlochev, Krenenets, and Kolomya areas of Western Ukraine, where 28 shafts had been sunk by November 1946.[3]

Industrial lignite deposits have also been found in an area of four square miles between Slavgarod and Sinolhikovo (near Dniepropetrovsk) and in the Transcarpathian region.

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1 The coal output of the entire Soviet Union in 1950 is fixed at 250 million tons.

2 The Five-Year Plan, 1946-50

3 Soviet Monitor, London, November 21, 1946.

135 To the south-east, in the Don and northern Donets valleys, 654 geologists have discovered a number of new coal-bearing areas, and have confirmed that the Donets Basin coal layers stretch far to the east and south.

Other investigations of coal-bearing areas are to begin shortly, particularly around the Azov Sea coast and in other regions bordering the Donets Basin.

Coke

316 The coke output of the Ukrainian S.S.R. in 1950 is planned to be 15,500,000 tons.

Natural Gas and Oil

315 185 With the incorporation of Western Ukraine in 1939, the Ukrainian S.S.R. came into possession of oil producing regions. The Five-Year Plan calls for the intensive development of these and other areas of the Ukraine for the increased production of oil and natural gas. Three hundred and twenty-five wells are to be located to add to the [654] petroleum resources of the western regions; prospecting for commercial deposits of petroleum in the Rozny area is to be completed; and there is to be extensive geological exploration for natural gas in the Drogobych Region (Western Ukraine) and on the Azov and Black Sea coasts.

[382] The total output of petroleum in the Ukrainian S.S.R. in 1950 is fixed by the Five-Year Plan at 325,000 metric tons.

The plan also provides for the building of a gas pipeline from Dashava to Kiev. Already in process of construction, the first section of the pipeline will be completed this year (1947) and will supply gas to more than 30,000 flats and several large industrial plants in Kiev.

Electric Power Stations

377 Electrification has been one of the outstanding features of the Soviet economy. Before the war the Ukrainian Republic possessed a wide network of electric power stations. Best known was the huge Dnieper Dam and Lenin Hydro-electric Station, completed in 1932 near Zaporozhie. This station supplied electric power to a great industrial region: in the north the steel mills of Dniepropetrovsk and Dnieprodzerzhinsk, and to the south-east, the Nikopol manganese mines. These three industrial centres developed quickly after the Dnieper Dam was built; and the abundance of cheap power available from it also gave rise to the growth of a metal and machine-building centre at Zaporozhie.

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Chemical Industry

The chemical industry of the Ukraine is based chiefly on coal deposits, but also on a number of other raw materials to be found there, including lacustrine deposits of sodium chloride (Artemovsk area) and phosphatic rocks (Konstantinovka area).

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The Five-Year Plan fixes that:

"The chemical plants of the Ukraine, including soda, nitrate, and superphosphate plants, shall be rebuilt, and the potash mines in the regions of Stanislav and Dragobych, and a new superphosphate plant, a paint and varnish plant and a plastics factory built.

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"In 1946-50 geological surveys shall be conducted with a view to locating commercial deposits of potassium salts to a total of 80 million tons, graphite to a total of 7.7 million tons, and gypsum to a total of 7 million tons."

Output in 1950 is fixed by the Plan as follows:

for the Ukrainian S.S.R.

Calcined soda	448,000 tons
Superphosphates	860,000 tons, and
Salt,	1,930,000 tons;

and for the entire Soviet Union:

Calcined soda	800,000 tons, and
Mineral fertilizers, superphosphates, nitrates and potash	5,100,000 tons.

Light Industry[1]

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By the end of 1946 the production of consumer goods in the U.S.S.R. had already revived considerably; output in the different branches ranged from 20 to 50 per cent. above 1945. Reconversion of the factories to peacetime production was largely completed; however, three big tasks remained: to complete the rehabilitation of all light industry enterprises wrecked by the Nazis; to replace the old or worn-out machinery; and to obtain an adequate supply of labour and materials.

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1 Soviet News, London, December 30, 1946, and February 6, 1947.